FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ON THE MONEY:
At the Intersection of Art and Commerce

(A group exhibition of artists who use US currency in their work)

"All artwork is either priceless or worthless."
-Gestured Stein

The On the Money group (artists Ray Beldner, Robin Clark, and Oriane Stender), is pleased to announce the dates and venues for their exhibition, ***On The Money: At the Intersection of Art and Commerce.*** ***On The Money*** is a traveling exhibition that combines work by emerging San Francisco Bay Area artists (Ray Beldner, Robin Clark, Oriane Stender, Lisa Kokin) with more established national and international artists (JSG Boggs, The Art Guys, Donald Lipski). The work in the exhibition will include discrete objects, ephemeral works, and small-scale installation. The show, which will open in conjunction with the San Francisco International Art Fair, will subsequently travel to several venues along the West Coast. The On the Money group is please to announce their participation in the *Seeing Money* exhibition to be held in Portland, Oregon's Pearl District December 1 through December 30, 1998

VENUES AND DATES FOR THE EXHIBITION:

* October 1-4, 1998	*San Francisco International Art Fair*
* December 1-30, 1998	*Seeing Money* , Portland, Oregon
* December 5, 1998--January 9, 1999	*Sherry Frumkin Gallery*, Santa Monica, CA
* April 7-30, 1999	*San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Rental Gallery*

The dollar is at once the ultimate symbol of power and the powerful object itself. Perhaps more than any other material, it carries both metaphoric and actual power. It is recognized and sought after around the world. It is the common language of those who speak different tongues. It is the shared sacred object of those who worship different gods. It is the magic substance which, if you have enough, can be turned into anything. It is the flying carpet, the genie in the lamp, the stuff dreams are made of. For this exhibition, seven artists take this substance and use it as raw material, subject and muse. Three Bay Area artists, Oriane Stender, Robin Clark and Ray Beldner have conceptualized an exhibition on the subject of money, inviting four additional artists to join them in a traveling show that will have it's inaugural exhibition in conjunction with the San Francisco International Art Exposition in October of this year. It is titled, ***On the Money: At the Intersection of Art and Commerce.***

ABOUT THE *ON THE MONEY* GROUP:

Drawing upon the traditions and techniques of women's handicrafts, Oriane Stender makes intensely detailed quilts and weavings out of dollar bills. This seductive yet subversive work combines the thrifty ethic of reuse with the dada-Sequa negation (and subsequent transformation) of our culture's most sacred object. The act of making a dollar-quilt is conservative and prudent in the sense that it takes used things and, through long hours of meticulous labor, refashions them into something new. At the same time, the act is absurdly wasteful. The irony inherent in her work is part of the pleasure in viewing it. These pieces are both exquisitely crafted objects, reminiscent of early American needlework, and transgressive violations of U.S. currency. While touching on issues of critical and theoretical concern including gender roles, "folk art", and people's complex attitudes toward money, Stender enjoys working with a material that speaks to everyone, irrespective of their knowledge of art.

Robin Clark works directly on all denominations of U.S. currency. He has developed a method of removing the printed ink from the bills by scraping them with a razor blade. This process renders the currency into a transparent yellow paper, with a shadow of the original image remaining, as well as a small pile of green and black "ash-like" dust. The residual ash piles and paper remain charged and strangely evocative of lost power and value. Stripped of symbolic and actual value, the currency is reduced to blank paper. The money is also stripped of its role of an anonymous, cultural, political, and historical signifier.

Ray Beldner's work is about landscape: economic, political, personal and ecological. He uses a variety of organic and found materials often in combination with video, sound, and mechanized movement to investigate the layered relationships between the natural world, human biology and social systems. In particular, he is interested in how the landscape is commodified and consumed. Specific items of the businessman's uniform (white shirts, ties, jackets and black shoes), that have been altered to refer to natural rather than cultural phenomena, are often used to explore the discord between the corporate world and natural world. Beldner combines coins (quarters, nickels, pennies) with black shoes that have mottoes (taken from currency: *E. Pluribus Unum, Liberty,* and *In God We Trust*) burned into the toes of the leather shoes. These works incorporating money and language mark the collision between conformity, religion, freedom, and power. His particular emphasis on the imprinted slogans of U.S. currency addresses the complex history of entanglement between God and money, religion and commerce.

These three artists have come together out of their individual interests in working with money as a visual art medium. In an effort to contextualize their conceptual ideas, they have invited two nationally recognized artists working in a similar vein to participate in this exhibition. On the site of the San Francisco International Art Exposition grounds, this show offers conceptually challenging and aesthetically well-crafted work that will engage viewers in a extended dialogue on the subject of art and commerce and the difficulties of assigning value to art.

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FACT SHEET

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What: A traveling group exhibition of artists who use US currency in their work.

Who: Four San Francisco Bay Area artists: Ray Beldner, Robin Clark, Oriane Stender, Lisa Kokin. Three nationally know artists: JSG Boggs, The Art Guys, Donald Lipski.

Where and When:

* October 1-4, 1998	*San Francisco International Art Fair*
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* April 7-30, 1999	*San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Rental Gallery*

Special Notice: *On The Money: At the Intersection of Art and Commerce,* will be seen in conjunction with the *Seeing Money* art event in Portland's Pearl District December 1-30, 1998

For More Information, Specific directions to each site, Interviews and Press Photographs Please Contact:

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or

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